

front rank, there is no doubt he will take advantage of the opportunity. Should the prospect be hopeless, he will wrap himself up in his dignity and point to private letters he would have been quite ready to repudiate on occasion. The Democrats seem to be at sixes and sevens just now, owing to a very common want among parties—the want of a policy. Repudiation came to grief in Pennsylvania and Ohio, and there is great disorganization in the rank and file everywhere. The only prominent candidates on that side are Gov. Tilden and the new Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Republicans are enfeebled by other causes. The military despotism at the South, the fearful corruption and demoralization in official quarters, and the dogged persistence with which Grant has hung on to the hope of a third term, are all sources of weakness. Of the aspirants at present named, ex-Speaker Blaine, Senator Morton and Governors Hartraft and Dix are the most prominent. It is impossible to forecast with any approach to certainty the result of the June Convention; but at present Senator Morton is, in betting parlance, the favourite.

Mr. Blaine made a powerful bid for party support, and at the same time sprang a mine upon the Democracy, when he proposed to exclude Jeff. Davis from the Amnesty Bill. There was no principle at stake in the move, for the Republican Congressmen do not care a pin whether the ex-Confederate's name remains there or is left out. All they cared for was, if possible, to place their opponents in an odious position before the people. Mr. Randall, the introducer of the Amnesty Bill, was compelled by the force of Southern pressure to do justice to his allies, especially in a Democratic House; and Mr. Blaine, who has an eye to the Presidency, was equally bound to take advantage of the opening. Whether, after all, the latter has made much by his bid against Senator Morton, may be doubted. As an intelligent American journalist remarks, the event may prove that he has done neither himself nor his party any good. It is hardly worth while to devote much attention to these party stratagems at present, for we shall have enough and to spare of them for some months to come.

The Centennial was to be a last and successful attempt "to bridge the bloody

chasm," and therefore it has disappointed Pennsylvanians sorely to find that on the very eve of their promulgation of a great peace evangel, with the eyes of the world upon them, the old passions have been aroused by Mr. Randall's persistence and Mr. Blaine's personal and party strategy. It is not at all certain yet that the House will vote the expected contribution of a million and a half to the fund, and therefore Philadelphia is up in arms against the parsimony of Washington politicians. Meanwhile the Khedive is the first contributor on the Exhibition grounds. Probably he desires his agents to have some leisure for an examination of Kelly and Allen's inflation theories; for in spite of the Suez Canal purchase he is sadly at a loss for some "new way to pay old debts."

The month's budget of European news contains matter for apprehension rather than for intelligent comment. Prince Bismarck is ill again, and Germany is quiescent—two events which generally synchronize. The elections for the Spanish Cortes have, of course, resulted in favour of the King, and probably against the Vatican. Castelar has managed to secure a seat for Barcelona—the Marseilles of the Peninsula—and will take two or three Republican colleagues with him into the Assembly. If all the officials acted as one *alcalde* is reported to have done, when he threatened a candidate with death if he refused to retire, the majority secured by the powers that be is not astonishing. In England, people appear to be puzzled as to the real nature of the conjuring feat accomplished by Mr. Disraeli. Lord Derby's speech has taken the gloss off the Suez Canal bargain, and the consequence is—general disappointment. Everybody supposed that the Premier had performed one of his choicest Oriental surprises, especially when the trumpet sounded and word was brought that the Khedive had been instructed to draw "at sight" for the paltry four millions sterling. The oracle has yet to be heard, however, and he may succeed in convincing a delighted nation that a great *coup d'état* was intentionally made and has been crowned with success. Of course it will be easy to aver that Lord Derby did not know what he was talking about at Edinburgh. How was he to divine secrets